

MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HURLOCK MINUTES

AUGUST 22, 2011

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF HURLOCK MET AT THE TOWN HALL ON MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2011 WITH MAYOR JOYCE SPRATT, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS CHARLES CEPHAS, MICHAEL NORDSTROM, PARKER DURHAM, CHRISTOPHER ADAMS; TOWN ATTORNEY HUGH CARTER VINSON, AND CLERK/TREASURER KATHLEEN CLOUGH.

MAYOR SPRATT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M., FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION.

MAYOR SPRATT ANNOUNCED THAT THE LAW SUIT THAT HAD BEEN FILED BY EARLENE SAMPSON LAKE FOR \$1,000,000 PROTESTING PAYING PROPERTY TAXES HAS BEEN DISMISSED; THE JUDGE GRANTED SUMMARY JUDGMENT INDICATING THERE WAS NO MERIT TO THE COMPLAINT.

TOWN ATTORNEY HUGH CARTER VINSON ADDRESSED THE DOCUMENT THAT WAS GIVEN TO COUNCIL MEMBERS AT THE AUGUST 8, 2011 MEETING REGARDING THE OPTION OF REQUIRING A PHOTO IDENTIFICATION TO PROVE IDENTITY AND RESIDENCY IN THE TOWN OF HURLOCK TO VOTE IN HURLOCK ELECTIONS. THE DETAILS OF THE MEETING WERE INCORRECTLY REPORTED IN THE DAILY BANNER, INDICATING THAT A VOTE WOULD BE TAKEN AT THIS EVENING'S MEETING. AS NO MOTION HAD BEEN MADE, AND THE COUNCIL HAD NO DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER, THERE WAS NO VOTE PLANNED. THE TOWN ATTORNEY HAD ADVISED THE COUNCIL THAT IT WAS SOMETHING FOR THEM TO "THINK ABOUT" AND "CONSIDER." TOWN ATTORNEY VINSON THEN READ THE MINUTES TO CLARIFY THE FACTS OF MR. VINSON'S COUNSEL TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL.

TOWN ATTORNEY VINSON CLARIFIED AND EMPHASIZED THAT THIS A MOOT ISSUE AS THE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS WILL BE SUPERVISING REGISTRATION AND THE CONDUCT OF THE NOVEMBER ELECTION, AS WELL AS ENSURING LEGAL RESIDENCY IN THE TOWN OF HURLOCK TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE ELECTION AND EACH RESIDENT'S VOTE.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM, THE COUNCIL VOTED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 8, 2011 WITH COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS OPPOSING.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE RICK PRICE REPORTED THAT THE COUNTY COUNCIL LIFTED THE BURNING BAN; ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2011 THERE WILL BE TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS, ONE ON THE PROPOSED ETHICS CODE AND THE OTHER TO AMEND THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE – "CLEAN AND LEAN." COUNCIL MEMBER PRICE ALSO ADVISED THAT THERE WILL BE A REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING AT 6:30 P.M. NEXT WEDNESDAY. HE FURTHER LET THE COUNCIL KNOW THAT HE ATTENDED THE MACO CONVENTION AND THE PLAN MARYLAND MEETING AND LEARNED THAT UNDER PLAN MARYLAND THE STATE CAN OVER-RIDE LOCAL PLANNING.

COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM ASKED ABOUT THE EXCISE TAX, STATING THAT THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE WANTS TO REVERSE IT AND ASKED WHAT THE HURLOCK COUNCIL CAN DO TO JOIN THEM TO GET IT OVERTURNED.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE RICK PRICE ADVISED THAT ON JULY 31, 2011 THE COUNTY COUNCIL PASSED THE OPEN BURNING BAN, WITH THE EXCEPTIONS OF GAS AND CHARCOAL GRILLING. THEY ALSO INTRODUCED A CODE OF ETHICS TO BRING THE COUNTY IN LINE WITH THE STATE REQUIREMENTS.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HURLOCK MINUTES

AUGUST 22, 2011

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2011, THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL ETHICS COMMISSION. COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER PRICE FURTHER ANNOUNCED THAT THE COUNTY IS ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR EIGHT MILES OF ROAD. HE INFORMED THE PUBLIC THAT THERE ARE CLASSES FOR FIRE FIGHTERS AND EMTs AT THE NEW SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY. COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE RICK PRICE ADVISED THAT THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL BE HOLDING PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE COUNTY'S REDISTRICTING PLAN.

"THE GOVERNOR WANTS TO INCREASE TAXES AND WE CAN'T LIVE NOW" STATED COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM, REFERRING TO THE DISCUSSION OF EXCISE TAXES.. COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM FURTHER STATED THAT "WE ARE LOSING TAX DOLLARS BECAUSE IT TAKES AWAY THE INCENTIVE TO TAKE DOWN AN OLD HOUSE AND BUILD NEW."

COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS SAID THAT THE ECONOMY WAS GOOD WHEN IT WAS DONE BUT "IT IS A BURDEN ON YOUNG PEOPLE. IT WAS ALWAYS A REVENUE GENERATOR. A SURVEY COSTS MONEY. IT SHOULD BE REDUCED, OR EVEN ELIMINATED." HE ASKED COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER PRICE TO SET UP A MEETING WITH THE COUNTY AND TOWN COUNCILS, AND ADVISED THAT EVERY TIME YOU ADD A NEW TAX YOU ARE TAKING DOLLARS AWAY FROM PEOPLE.

COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM ASKED COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER PRICE FOR CLARIFICATION ON THE LIFTING THE BURNING BAN.

COUNTY COUNCILMAN PRICE WAS ASKED HOW THE STATE REDISTRICTING WILL AFFECT HURLOCK. HIS RESPONSE WAS THAT SECRETARY AND EAST NEW MARKET WILL BE TAKEN OUT OF HIS DISTRICT LEAVING ONLY HURLOCK.

POLICE CHIEF HUTTON REPORTED THAT THE FOUR NEW POLICE CARS ARE MUCH BRIGHTER AND WILL BE PLACED IN SERVICE AFTER THE LIGHTS ARE INSTALLED.

MR. EARL MURPHY GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE FALL FESTIVAL WHICH WILL BE HELD SEPTEMBER 29TH THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 2011. THE EAGLE 5K RUN WILL BE HELD AT THAT TIME AGAIN. THERE WILL BE A HOMEMADE PIE CONTEST – NOT JUST PUMPKIN PIE, BUT ANY KIND OF PIE.

THERE WILL ONCE AGAIN BE THE HAUNTINGS OF HURLOCK – FICTITIOUS STORIES ABOUT THE TOWN OF HURLOCK ON HAYRIDES. THEY HAD OVER 200 PEOPLE PARTICIPATE LAST YEAR EVEN THOUGHT THE HAYRIDE BROKE DOWN. THE VENDORS WILL BE ABLE TO SET UP ON FRIDAY EVENING. JERRY RHUE OF THE HVFC WILL BE HELPING TO BLOCK OFF CHARLES STREET BETWEEN THE FIRE HOUSE AND THE TRAIN STATION TO ALLOW MORE ROOM FOR VENDORS. THIS YEAR THERE WILL BE SIX MORE TRAIN RIDES STARTING AT 9:30 A.M. THERE WILL BE ACTIVITIES FRIDAY NIGHT THROUGH SATURDAY. HE HAS ASKED TO MEET WITH MR. CEDRIC TURNER REGARDING THE BLOW UP ACTIVITIES. ALL IDEAS ARE WELCOME. MAYOR SPRATT HAS VOLUNTEERED TO HELP WITH THE FESTIVAL.

OLD BUSINESS

A. UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM, THE COUNCIL VOTED 3-1 WITH COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS OPPOSING, TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH CROSBY & ASSOCIATES TO PROVIDE THE TOWN OF HURLOCK WITH A PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, SCHEMATIC DESIGN AND COST ANALYSIS FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE CENTER IN HURLOCK, MARYLAND.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HURLOCK
MINUTES

AUGUST 22, 2011

- B. TOWN ATTORNEY PRESENTED AND READ A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE TOWN OF HURLOCK HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM, WITH NO DISCUSSION, THE COUNCIL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE 2011 DORCHESTER COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AS THE TOWN OF HURLOCK HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

FOLLOWING PUBLIC AND COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS, THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT BEFORE THE COUNCIL, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



KATHLEEN L. CLOUGH, M.S.
CLERK-TREASURER

SEPTEMBER 12, 2011